

efforts. Guidelines would be designed to allow for the possibility of eventual coordination with a state-wide planning effort (such as revival of the Land Policy Act or legislative action on the Partnership for Growth).

11. The regional planners would encourage local governments to coordinate other local planning efforts (such as economic development plans, land development plans, policy development plans, and strategic plans) with environmental plans.
12. The state of Virginia would work with the state of North Carolina to ensure a similar level of local planning in the Virginia portion of the APES watershed.

#### **Evaluation Method**

DCA would maintain an ongoing count and inventory of local planning documents and implementation strategies funded by this program to determine the extent to which funding is being used to develop and implement local environmental plans. DCA would perform a periodic survey of local governments and the public to assess local government perception of the effectiveness of environmental planning liaisons, determine the perceived value of services provided, and to estimate unmet demands for local environmental planning. DCA would examine each Albemarle-Pamlico river basin in five-year increments to determine whether population, development, and land use conversion pressures and public access needs have been managed effectively by local planning and implementation strategies. In determining the effectiveness of local growth management on environmental protection, DCA would use relevant DEM indicators (from water quality monitoring data) to determine the effect of local environmental plans on water quality in the region.

#### **Costs and Economic Considerations**

Twenty North Carolina counties would need full funding for planning. Sixteen coastal North Carolina counties would need partial funding to augment existing plans. Local plans and implementation strategies would receive funding for 80% of the cost of developing plans. Assuming that municipalities are covered under county plans, and that there is full participation by all counties that are eligible, it would cost state government an estimated \$450,000 per year to implement this Management Action. It would cost local governments an additional \$38,000 per year per county to develop individual plans. Other local government costs would be incurred for ordinance updates, enforcement, and other administrative costs. (Note that the costs of planning in Virginia communities have not been included